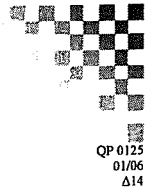




QUEENSLAND POLICE SERVICE
STATEMENT OF WITNESS



Occurrence #: _____

Statement no.: _____ Date: **04/02/2011**

Statement of

Name of witness: **GEEVES, Wayne James**

Date of birth: [redacted] Age: [redacted] Occupation: **Self Employed**

Police officer taking statement

Name: **TUCKERMAN, Hans Paul**

Rank: **Detective Senior Constable** Reg. no.: **8868**

Region/Command/Division: **SCOC** Station: **Organised Crime Investigations Unit**

Statement:

Wayne James GEEVES states:

1. I am [redacted] years old and I resided at [redacted] Grantham. I resided there with my wife Anne-Marie and my [redacted] year old son Daniel. I have lived at this address for approximately 8 years. The address has been my family residence since the mid seventies.
2. The residence is a weatherboard home built on about metre high wooden stumps. The residence suffered major structural damage as a result of the flood that occurred on 10th January 2011.
3. My neighbours to the immediate right are Mick and Faith DARLINGTON who reside at number [redacted] Avenue. At the time they had their daughter Karina, their grandchildren Michael and Tray staying with them. I think Karina is about [redacted] years old, Michael [redacted] and Tray [redacted] I know that the house still upright and did suffer substantial damage from the flood. I also know that the DARLINGTON family all survived the flood. I have spoken to them since the disaster.

[redacted signature area]

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **GEEVES, Wayne James**

4. My neighbours to the immediate left are Jim and Faye. I do not know their surname. They are both in their seventies. They live there alone. I think the house number is [REDACTED] Avenue. I know that the house is still upright and did suffer some damage from the flood. I also know that Jim and Faye survived the flood. I spoke to them since the disaster at the Helidon Recreation Club after the evacuation.
5. I recall the events leading to the flood. We had between moderate and heavy rainfall since Boxing Day 26th December 2010. I didn't think it was anything out of the ordinary as we had a few minor flooding and I didn't feel there was anything to be excited about.
6. I recall Monday 10th January 2011. I was poking around in the back yard next to Mick's property. I do not recall the exact time but I know it was sometime around 3 to 4pm. Whilst I was pottering about I saw Mick starting up a couple of his trucks in the back yard.
7. I had a conversation with Mick and he said words to the effect of: "I just got a call from Brendan (Mick's son) and he said that there was a wall of water coming towards us."
8. Mick's son Brendan lives in Helidon. I know it would have been after 3pm because Brendan picks his nephew Michael up from the meatworks and the meatworks finish at 3pm. The meatworks is situated between Grantham and Helidon on Grantham Scrub Road.
9. After receiving this information from Mick, I immediately went home and told Anne-Marie and Daniel what I had been told. I then intended to go up to the railway siding to pick up my car so I could load the family and pets and get out of there.
10. I was still in the house when I saw water rapidly running down the road in front of the house. I have never seen water flow at that speed before this day.

[REDACTED]
✓ (Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **GEEVES, Wayne James**

It usually rises up to the gutter and half way across the road. It would then creep up the front yard but never above the floor boards.


11. I knew at this stage we would not get out and we were trapped. By the time from when we saw the water and Anne-Marie had packed a suitcase with our immediate belongings the water level had raised through the floor.
12. We then got into the smallest room in front of the house thinking that it was the strongest part of the house. This small bedroom is also the highest part of the house. I saw the water continuing to rise up to our armpits and debris plus items inside the house were building up against the window. I then opened the window to allow the blockage to escape. I was later told by Mick DARLINGTON that the water level at the rear of my house was higher than the front. This is also confirmed by the water marks on the walls.
13. As the water was rising I attempted to punch a hole into the ceiling in the lounge but as I did I saw that the flow of water was flowing more rapid than where we were. I returned to the small room to join Anne-Marie and Daniel.
14. The three of us then stood there in chest high water and waited for the water to go down and monitor the level. During all this time there was this huge roar from the water. I heard Mick yelling out to me several times but I couldn't understand anything he was saying because of the noise. We waited there till after dark and I noticed that the water had settled and was starting to recede.
15. I waited till the water level dropped about a metre then I walked out to a front porch of the house and manage to make contact with Mick. Mick then told me that there was going to be another wall of water possibly about 6 metres coming and this may be the only chance to get out. Mick still had his mobile phone working. I do not know who gave his that information.



(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)

CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **GEEVES, Wayne James**

16. From there I got a rope from Mick and managed to tie it to his shed. I then tied it to myself and waded back to my house and tied it to a pole on the front porch. I then walked Anne-Marie, Daniel and our pets one at a time to Mick's shed. At that stage the water level was above waist high. Once in the shed we crawled over the rubble and climbed up to the mezzanine.
17. On the mezzanine was Mick, Faith, Karina, Tray, Anne-Marie, Daniel and myself and 9 pets.
18. We waited until we were contacted by a group in a front end loader. The DARLINGTON family was first to get rescued because Faith required medical attention due to her recent operation. Several hours later two loaders returned and rescued my family and pets.
19. We were then taken to Grantham Helidon Road on the western side of the Sandy Creek Bridge and transported to the Helidon Community Centre. I was told that we arrived at the centre about 2am Tuesday 11th January 2011. We stayed at the Centre until late that afternoon and spent two nights at Brendan's house in Air force Road, Helidon.
20. After that we made arrangements to move into my ex-wife's empty house at  Placid Hills. We are still at this address and anticipate being there for another 12 months.
21. I am aware of the 1974 flood at Grantham. I was not present at the time but was told that the water levels were no where near the levels it reached on this occasion. I was told that the water level in 1974 only reached the bottom of the floor boards.
22. I am not aware of any flood warning system in place. I have been told of a water level indicator somewhere up the Sandy Creek but I have not seen it or benefited from its purpose. I was also told that this so called indicator was not


(Witness's signature)


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CONTINUED STATEMENT OF: **GEEVES, Wayne James**

working at the time. I can't confirm this to be true or where the rumour came from.

23. I would estimate that from the time I was made aware of the incoming wall of water to the time of seeking safe refuge would have been no longer than 2 minutes. After this it all went into a blur as the priority was survival.


.....
W. J. GEEVES

Justices Act Acknowledgement

Justices Act 1886

I acknowledge by virtue of section 110A(5)(c)(ii) of the Justices Act 1886 that:

- (1) This written statement by me dated 04/02/2011 and contained in the pages numbered 1 to 5 is true to the best of my knowledge and belief; and
- (2) I make this statement knowing that, if it were admitted as evidence, I may be liable to prosecution for stating in it anything that I know is false.

.....
.....Signature

Signed at Gatton this 4th day of February 2011.

(Witness's signature)

(Justice of the Peace (Qual.)/
Commissioner for Declarations's signature)

(Signature of police officer
preparing statement)